

West Virginia Democrat.

Thomas H. Mason, Business Manager.
Mr. J. M. Mason, when in New York, will be at 15 Wall street. This is in reply to applications for his address.

We printed in our last issue a very well written and well considered article on the expediency of Mr. Kenna's re-election. It should have been credited to the Monroe county *Watchman*:—a paper that always has the true ring and which we always read with benefit.

At the Reanne convention about a year ago the farmers demanded a resolution instructing the Legislature to curb railway managers. The politicians tabled the resolution. The farmers had no leader. Virginia went Republican outside of Richmond city.

The most intelligent Republican politicians tell us, they would rather have a straight anti-protection Democrat for Senator than a man who endorses Cleveland and yet favors "protection to West Virginia Industries," because such a man is untrue to both sides.

It seems universally conceded that Mr. Wm. P. Hubbard of Wheeling, is the ablest man the Republicans have. His majority for Attorney-General, in Ohio county, was 384; Flemings majority was only 129.—It is lucky for us, the Republican machine kills off the best men in their party.

The County Court of Kanawha has decided to certify the election returns according to the original count. This elects McGinnis. Hence West Virginia will have for Congressmen: Wilson, Pendleton, Smith and McGinnis. Goff has a plurality of 115. The Senate is republican and the House Democratic by one vote only. A pretty bad outlook. The Ring has done its work.

We must confront facts and dispose of them, or they will dispose of us. Unless we can convince the body of the people that protection is a swindle the Democratic party has lost power for ever. We can not convince the people that protection is a swindle if our leaders be men who advocated protection until Cleveland, against their wishes, planted our party on the true doctrine.

If we cannot get a square, truthful, sincere, industrious Democrat for Senator: a man whose private character commands respect and whose past life has earned public confidence,—then we prefer a Republican like Campbell or Hubbard.

We want our enemies in the other camp. Our party is dying because the people distrust men who saddle every question, and sacrifice everything and every body to maintain themselves in office.

The Democratic war cry is: PROMOTION OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY.—*Wheeling Register*.

It would be a great advance if the *Register* could see a distinction between PROMOTION of industry and PROTECTION of industry. The latter is a swindle. There is a PROTECTION on steel rails of \$17.—Carnegie gets the \$17. There is PROTECTION on coal of 75 cents.—the miners don't get the 75 cents.

The Philadelphia *Press* speaks of "a national system of Protection, in whose favor an overwhelming verdict was pronounced at the recent Presidential election." Of course there was an overwhelming verdict for the national system of protection but not for the Republican system.—*Wheeling Register*.

The trouble with the *Register* is that it does not know whether it is in favor of protection or against protection. There is no difference between a "national system" and the "Republican system." The true and only tenable doctrine is, a tariff for revenue only. There is a protection of \$17 on steel rails; Carnegie is worth \$15,000,000, and his laborers strike for better wages.

The money of the Carnegie class fooled labor. If the *Register* will read these columns it will acquire clear-cut views.

WILSON.

The *Wheeling Register* is puzzled why Congressman Wilson has a plurality of 378 when the vote in the other district was almost evenly divided. Wilson has never dodged on the tariff; he refused to support Randal, and has always told the people that protection is a swindle. This is why he got the most votes.

The Democrats of West Virginia should not for a moment think of allowing their organization to lax. Keep it up. Improve it. Extend it. Remember that "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Lack of thorough organization among Democrats was one of the causes that made the result in this State close.—*Wheeling Register*.

We have too much organization; organization beat us. What we need is less organization and more principle. The Democracy saw Mr. Brice, a Wall-street railroad manager, Barnum and Gorman, the embodiment of corrupt methods, in charge of their party, and the Democracy puked. It puked when the same influences nominated Greeley. Organization has ruled out the brains and virtue of the party; it has extended Wallis, Cowen and Marshall in Maryland, McDonald in Indiana, John Davis, Haymond and Brannen in West Virginia. We are done with the cant of organization.

ON A FALSE SCENT.

The Parkersburg *Journal* says: The W. VA. DEMOCRAT has an article headed "The big deal on foot," following immediately after a bitter assault on Kenna.

We made no assault on Kenna. Please tell us why you thought we were assaulting him. It was an accident the two editorials came together. They were written by different persons more than 300 miles apart. Neither knew what the other had written until after the paper was printed. The *Journal* should strike another trail. The *Journal* is sometimes enterprising and here is an opportunity for enterprise.—honest unselfish enterprise. The *Journal* may make itself very interesting to members of the Legislature and give much anxiety to some of its readers in Parkersburg.

BUYING VOTES.

The Legislature should make it its first duty to enact additional stringent laws on this head. It must be done or we may as well turn the government over to the money power at once. As it is the people have no protection against combined capital. No matter what the issue the votes of a majority of the people avail naught against the millions placed in the hands of these villainous election corrupters.—*Wheeling Register*.

The *Register* is talking sense. The English Parliament has frequently disenfranchised Boroughs whose electors sold their votes. The Legislature should appoint a Commission to study this subject and report a law that will cure the evil. It would be very foolish to legislate before the subject is thoroughly examined. Crude and hasty legislation will make confusion more confounding. A wise legislator; a man who has sense enough to comprehend that he is ignorant on questions he has never had occasion to investigate or think about, sees at once how great a service a Commission can render. The greatest English statesman, now living, has said that he never knew of any intelligent legislation, for a purely public purpose unless it was the outcome of a Commission or of some similar instrument. A Commission gathers and submits information which the Legislators can't spare the time to hunt up. \$1,000 spent for information will be worth \$1,000,000 to the State. This information will not be gathered by private enterprise.

The DEMOCRAT has been trying for nearly four years to make the people understand what they have to fear from the Money Power. If the *Register* had read these columns, it would have known three years ago what it knows now.

The Anniversary of Georgetown College.—WASHINGTON, December 7.—The most elaborate preparations are being made for the celebration of the centennial of Georgetown College.—Visiting clergy are expected from all portions of Europe and America, and on the day of the celebration it is expected that upwards of 500 Catholic prelates will be present.—The celebration will continue three days, February 20th, 21st and 22nd, and President Cleveland and Cardinal Gibbons will participate in the ceremonies incident to the celebration.

On the auspicious occasion announced James Fairfax McLaughlin, Esq., will produce a history of the College, and Judge William Merriek will deliver the Centennial address. These two gentlemen have been selected as the most distinguished graduates of the Institution, and its representative scholars, in American civil life.

RAILROAD RULE.

Many persons, especially the office-seekers, tell us that we injure this paper by giving so much space to exposing unlawful railway management. We do so because we know the value to the general public of the work we are doing and because other papers are silent; most of them are silent because they do not see what we see. Indeed, when we consider the vast sums unlawfully taken from the people and spent by railway managers to mislead the popular judgment and to strike down the men of brains who refuse to do their bidding; indeed when we hear so many well-meaning citizens say of us: "His hobby is to hound railroads;" when we witness the thoughtless multitude applauding shrewd knaves pushed to the front by the railroad lobby; when we observe the unwillingness of our politicians to be aggressive on this vital subject; when we reflect that the ablest intellects in the world are busy to prevent legislation for the protection of the masses against the aggression of these corporations, while there is no one specially concerned to preach the truth or rouse the people, the feeling comes over us that we are wasting our life on a hopeless work, and we are tempted to stand aside as others are doing, and "let the public be—d—d." But unfortunately for our personal welfare we cannot be silent when we see the community plundered. We can do but little because this paper has a small audience, but the effort to do that little affords us infinite satisfaction. If what appears in these columns reached even fifty thinking men in every State who are outside of railway influence there would soon be a revolution in public opinion on this subject. We make some extracts taken at random from papers that chance to lie on our table. Let the reader ponder on these extracts. These extracts are conclusive that we do not exaggerate the situation, and we could fill ten papers like this with similar extracts. We are not "hounding railroads;" we are fighting a conspiracy to plunder the public. The question is, not whether railroads are useful, but how much more useful they would be if conducted legally.

[Special Dispatch to N. Y. Herald.]

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 5.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company was held here to day, when the following officers were elected: President—George S. Scott of New York City; Directors—John H. Inman, Samuel Thomas, Calvin S. Brice, John G. Moore, Harris C. Fahnstock, George F. Stone, John H. Paul, John A. Rutherford, Charles M. McGee, J. C. Mabon, and Samuel I. Ingram, of New York City, and John S. Barbour of Virginia.

The lease of the Georgia Pacific Railroad was confirmed. It will be observed that the Richmond and Danville and the Richmond Terminal are in the hands of the same people; all New York bankers except Mr. Barbour who is a United States Senator. It will be further observed that the lease of the Georgia Pacific was confirmed notwithstanding the Legislature of Georgia has forbidden it.

Is it well for N. Y. bankers to control our highways?

[Dispatch to N. Y. Times.]

ATLANTA, GA., Dec. 5.—Judge Speer has entered a decree annulling the purchase of the S. D. & W. Railroad by the Central Company of Ga., on the ground that the purchase was made to avert competition and was therefore illegal. The charter of the Georgia Central forbids it securing control of competing lines.

[Dispatch to N. Y. Times.]

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—Speaking of the interstate commerce law, Judge Cooley remarked to-day that the result has been greatly beneficial to the public. Railroad difficulties are not easy to adjust. If we could be informed of the wrongdoers, the violators of the law, the work would be much easier, but the roads will not inform on each other, and when the law has been violated we are first obliged to ferret out the guilty ones ourselves.

The Law Defied.

The N. Y. Times of the 8th says:

Pursuant to announcement of President Chauncey Depew of the N. Y. Central, the Pool Commissioner has advanced rates; first class is advanced from 50 to 75 cents, second class from 40 to 65. The advance takes effect to-day, ignoring the provision of the interstate commerce bill prohibiting advances without ten day's notice, the rates going into effect to-day.

Is it not wonderful these railroad kings "ignore the interstate commerce bill," and yet not one man in Congress moves in the matter. There was a day when the violation of

such a law as this would have brought many Senators and members of the House to their feet. Were it not that railway influence has excluded from Congress men of brains willing to fight for the people, a committee would be promptly appointed to inquire into this defiance of the law. If the question whether the interstate commerce law should be obeyed were submitted to a popular vote the verdict for its enforcement would be unanimous.

Be it remembered that Depew did more than any other one man, except Creed Haymond, attorney for the Pacific Railroad, to defeat Gresham and to nominate Harrison.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

Those who study public questions know perfectly that under our present system the man who has nothing to sell except Labor contributes to Federal revenue more than 1000 times his fair share. If every man contributed in proportion to his ability, labor might be benefited by a lavish government, but when Labor contributes \$1,000 and capital \$1, it is the interest of Labor to have the most economical government possible.

Labor forgets this fact and hence the Knights favor the Blair bill. The Carnegie-class also favor the Blair bill. The Hawk and the chickens agree. This is wonderful but true. The Hawk is fooling the chickens.

THE NEGRO VOTE.

Under the census of 1880 the population of the sixteen States in which slavery existed before the war embraced 12,460,247 whites and 6,039,657 negroes. Hence to disfranchise the negroes would reduce the representation of those States in Congress from 121, the present number of members, to about 81.

THE BELL TELEPHONE SUIT.

[Dispatch to The Evening Post.]

WASHINGTON, December 5.—Mr. Jeff Chandler, one of the Government counsel in the Bell Telephone case, says: "As soon as we get an official copy of the opinion, we shall begin to prepare for trial in the United States Court in Boston, to which the case is removed. We shall have the right to prepare an amended bill; we may do so and we may not; I cannot tell yet. Then the Bell people will have so much time in which to prepare an answer. Then we shall begin to take testimony. So the case will be tried, if at all, under the direction of Mr. Harrison's Attorney-General, and in all probability with a new Solicitor-General. No, I don't know that anybody now in it will be in it then. I don't know what will be the policy of the next Administration in reference to the Bell Company. I don't know but that the next Attorney-General will dismiss the case altogether. Of this, however, I am certain, that if the Government is in earnest, and prosecutes the case in earnest, it will be successful in breaking down the Bell Telephone monopoly."

Is it not a discouraging commentary on our capacity for self government, when a man like Chandler thinks that the people of this country will be milked, \$10,000,000 a year for six years, by an ILLEGAL monopoly? He says in substance, that the Bell Company will be strong enough to prevent the Government from "prosecuting the suit IN EARNEST."

Judge Daniels of the Supreme Court of New York writes a letter to the *Herald* in a commendably grave tone on the subject of bribery in elections. The contagion, according to Judge Daniels, has gone beyond the illiterate and vicious classes and has invaded the otherwise respectable ranks of society, and herein lies the danger. It is of the nature of this malady to grow by what it feeds on and there is no assignable limit to its spread.—"The vice," says Judge Daniels, "or crime, as it may be more correctly denominated, is one of appalling magnitude, having a direct tendency to undermine the foundation on which the national and State Governments must be maintained, and if they are to be maintained in the future, for they can securely stand only on the intelligence and political integrity of the voters themselves. If that is to be corrupted by the use of money in the elections, then ultimately, and at no very distant period, the wealthy will buy the prominent and important offices. Men of moderate means, and still possessing intelligence, experience, ability and unsullied integrity, must in that event retire from the political field. They will be as completely ineligible as though declared to be so by the Constitution, both State and national; and that will hand the republic over to an aristocracy as surely as it would be if in legal the-

ory it had been placed on that foundation." The Judge thinks that, while much may be done by a ballot law to lessen bribery at the polls, no such law can entirely prevent it. He favors penal legislation much more stringent than the present, and provisions for taking the testimony of the bribed on condition that it shall not be used against themselves. He does not refer to the English system of limiting the total amount of money which may be spent at elections, a system which it would probably be difficult to introduce here, but by no means impossible if all parties were in favor of it. What we have to fear is that those who profited in the recent election in New York by means of bribery, on both sides, of politics, will equip a lobby to prevent any change in the law which might disable them from committing the same crime in future elections.

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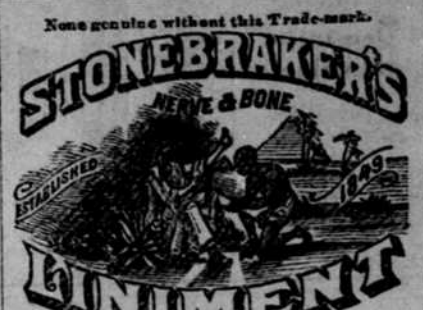
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